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AN

ADMONITORY LETTER

TO

H. R. H. the Prince of Wales,

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE LATE

DELICATE INQUIRY;

CONTAINING

Anecdotes never before Published, which may probably lead to the Detection
of the real Authors of the late scandalous Attempt to sully the Purity
of an illustrious Personage.

*Omnia si nescis loca sunt plenissima nugis,
Quarum, tota cohors est inimica tibi.*

Fohn of Salisbury.

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1806.

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A LETTER, &c.

SIR,

IT has been observed, that the reputation of a woman is as frequently blasted by the prostitution of her name, as the prostitution of her person: when the general voice condemns the impropriety of her conduct, she is equally abhorred by the moral world, as if she had actually deviated from the path of virtue.

Nor does the fair fame of princes rest on a securer basis; and it is not only necessary that they, in fact, be blameless, but that their conduct be such as to prevent even the suspicion of crime

The exalted situation in which you are placed by fortune, renders you an object of universal attention—to you we must look forward for a continuation of those blessings we now enjoy under the auspicious reign of your Royal Father. To arouse you from a state of apathy and disregard to general censure,* to vindicate the insulted honor of your illustrious, amiable, but unhappy consort; and direct the public indignation where to fall on the heads of her calumniators, are my only motives for addressing your Royal Highness. *I* am neither actuated by malevolence, interest, nor *the rancor of disappointment*, but as an Englishman anxious for the welfare of his country, anxious for the welfare of your Royal Highness, I shall express my sentiments with honest freedom.

It is not my intention to take a retrospective view of your early propensities, because it is not

* Mrs. Fitz-t (who is tolerably well acquainted with his disposition) has declared that nothing can induce H. R. H. to think himself unpopular.—Perhaps Mr. Windham may think himself the idol of his country.

my wish to sink you in the estimation of your country. Your follies might once be considered the follies of youth, your errors, the errors of inexperience ; but those times are past, and your sportive bark is no longer hurried along the stream of dissipation, with

“ Youth at the helm and pleasure at the prow.”

You are arrived at an age when reflection should precede decision ; and by your actions will now be scanned the merits of your head and heart. Suffer not, then, your conduct to be influenced by the arts of needy dependants and interested parasites : tear from your eyes the bandage of flattery : behold, in its true light, your present perilous situation, and by your future conduct endeavour to obtain that popularity which is indispensable to the heir apparent of the British empire.

It is now some months since the busy tongue of slander first dared to whisper the most detestable insinuations against the purity of your illustrious

illustrious wife : these were long confined within the pale of the higher circles of society, and it has been observed, that the intimates of your Royal Highness (the amiable Earl of Moira always excepted) were but too industrious in spreading the abominable calumny.

Long ere these scandalous reports had reached the public ear, a celebrated lawyer was employed to draw up the charges in legal form, and the most strenuous (I will not say the most *honorable*) exertions made to obtain evidence, by which it was falsely hoped they would be substantiated,

A noble lord was, at length, desired to apprise the exalted personage of the accusations which her enemies had brought forward, who immediately repaired to Blackheath, where he was received with all the dignity of conscious innocence, —“ Go, my lord !” exclaimed this injured princess ;

cess; "Go, and, lest my accusers should insinuate that my servants were influenced, it is my request that you do instantly discharge them."

Such conduct requires neither the pen nor voice of panegyric.

About the end of May, or beginning of June, your Royal Father, with that sacred regard for substantial justice which marks his character, commissioned three noblemen, of unblemished honor, to investigate the mysterious business: these were the Lord Chancellor, Earl Spencer, and Lord Grenville. Lord Ellenborough was not, as has been falsely stated, included among the commissioners.*

Soon after this, I believe on the 20th of June, the Morning Post first publicly noticed what

* His lordship, justly jealous of the dignity of his exalted station, after having convinced himself of the *extent* of the calumny, is reported to have declined any further interference.

had

had till then been only whispered. It is impossible to express the strong sensations the subject now excited: but these sensations were extremely adverse to the detested hopes of the vile accusers. An universal blaze of indignation, at their abominable intentions, burst forth from every breast; and such was the popular confidence in the virtue of the illustrious princess, that the *magnitude* of the crimes alleged against her, was generally esteemed a sufficient proof of her unblemished purity.

Various surmises as to the cause *and consequences of the calumny were immediately generated*. The conduct of Henry VIII. was recalled to every mind, and candor compels me to observe that the general impression added little to the popularity of your Royal Highness.

Let it not be understood that I consider your Royal Highness guilty of instigating these scandalous accusations. Your friends (I mean your sycophants)

sycophants) assert the contrary, and God forbid their assertions, in this instance, should be false.

But is it enough to be acquitted by the few, if you be condemned by the many? No; the nation regards with a jealous eye the conduct of their future sovereign, and will not rest satisfied till even his enemies are compelled to think him innocent.

Many circumstances, and a singular coincidence of events, have certainly tended to strengthen those suspicions, which, perhaps, the malignity of your evil-wishers originally suggested: numerous reports have also obtained circulation, extremely prejudicial to your cause; some of which are unquestionably founded on fact, although in their progress they may have been increased by an accumulation of falsehood. To refute and elucidate these is a duty which you should esteem paramount to every consideration of *private sacrifices*.

That

That you may have an opportunity of doing so, I shall first inform you of their nature, which the herd of flatterers who continually surround your person may have hitherto concealed. I shall then repeat the malicious insinuations and arguments of your adversaries, and finally point out the means by which alone the tongue of suspicion can be silenced, and your innocence blazoned to the world.

The origin of the odious insinuations that gave rise to the late DELICATE enquiry (as it has been most *inaptly* denominated) is reported to have been a letter, signed by a gallant baronet and his lady, in which the virtue of your august wife was most scandalously traduced. That such a letter was written, no one has ventured to deny; but that any person should have had the effrontery to place their signatures thereto, almost startles *credulity*; and yet it is equally incredible that the peace of an irreproachable princess should be doomed to experience an additional pang, and the purity of the regal succession called in question,
upon

upon no other foundation than a vile anonymous libel.

The public papers have frequently stated they were authorised to contradict the report of Sir —— and Lady —— being more intimately concerned than any other persons who had been compelled to give evidence before the commissioners appointed to investigate the matter. From whom did they receive such authority?—From your Royal Highness? I sincerely hope and believe the contrary. From Sir ——, or his immediate connexions?—very probably it was: but if I had heard any book universally condemned for its stupidity, should I believe the assertions of the author or his friends, that the language was good, the wit abundant, and the *tout ensemble* excellent? Unquestionably not; neither will I believe, possessed as I am of particular facts, that Sir —— and his Lady are quite so immaculate with respect to this affair as they wish to appear.

It is very true, that Lady —— in a letter to her friend Lady P——l, strenuously maintains their innocence; but it is also very true that her ladyship and her husband have, in their unguarded moments, indulged their natural propensity to relate tales of wonder (scarcely less improbable than Mr. M. Lewis's) in a manner which strongly militates against this epistolary defence.

Will she deny having, in the presence of many persons, most *significantly* exclaimed, “If the foolish woman (meaning your Royal Highness's w—fe) had retired to Germany two or three years back, when she *was wished* to do so, all this affair would have been hushed for ever?”

Has she not, to all her acquaintance, uniformly declared her unnatural opinion, that the hateful charges in question *must* be substantiated? And does Sir —— forget the conversation he had with Major T—p—m at Mr. W—h P—rt—r's table? Whether he do or not, little signifies:
but

but it is of the utmost consequence that your Royal Highness, and the world in general, be apprized of its substance, that you may appreciate, as it deserves, his veracity on other occasions.

He declared, as I am credibly informed, that dining some time ago in company with an august personage (whom he most impudently named) she arose from her chair, the instant the cloth was removed, and tapping Capt. M——y on the shoulder, retired with him into the garden. This circumstance exciting his suspicions, this gallant warrior, who undaunted braved the fearful odds of Bonaparte's Legions, assumed (as himself affirmed) the degrading office of a domestic spy: and having followed them to a summer house, applied his eye to the key-hole of the door, and thereby discovered *—— what I shall not insult your Royal Highness by repeating. A man who could

* * Vide, the Mayor of Garratt.

speaking,

speak this palpable, this diabolical falsehood, must either be devoid of reason, or destitute of common honesty. Charity induces us to imagine the former was the case; indeed, an hereditary infirmity strengthens the supposition.

But if Sir —— be always either mad, or what is nearly the same thing, insanely drunk, it cannot be contended that either of these disorders afflicts her Ladyship; why then did she thus ardently anticipate the destruction of a princess, with whose friendship she was once particularly honored, whose moral excellence she once enthusiastically praised?

Some attribute this revolution of sentiment, or what may be more properly styled, this annihilation of virtuous impulse, to pique, arising from a discontinuance of those marked attentions she once enjoyed; whilst others boldly assert that a *proffered bribe*, from a lady, with whom you, Sir, are *too* intimately connected, was the irresistible temptation.

temptation. Annuities of one thousand pounds, it has been said, were to reward Sir —— and Lady ——, provided they substantiated their abominable charges.

If the lady alluded to did tamper with the parties in this, or any other manner, with a view of ruining the amiable personage, whom I know she still regards with jealousy, how depraved must be her heart! how execrable her disposition! But, when I contemplate the whole of her preceding behaviour, even the idea of this atrocious conduct can scarcely render her more despicable, in my eyes, than she was before. She has artfully robbed her once successful rival of all domestic joys, and endeavoured to seduce your Royal Highness from the most sacred duties: nor can she plead the all-conquering power of Cupid in extenuation of her crimes; for

“At her age the hey-day of the blood is tame.”

Inordinate ambition is all she seeks to gratify: what it may prompt her to attempt heaven only knows !

It is a notorious fact, that Mrs. F—tz—t* does not, and never did, feel the slightest predilection for your person. Interest, and interest alone, attaches her frigid heart: and yet, for such a woman, you have forsaken an amiable wife, who possesses every charm of personal and mental beauty.

But to recall your Royal Highness's attention to the subject of this *irreverent* report, let me enquire: As your name has been generally coupled with Mrs. F—tz—t's on other occasions, can you imagine it has not been so on the present?

Of the same nature, as the last mentioned, is the

* During the *inter-regnum* of her power at C—n House, Mrs. F—tz—t has frequently told her bosom friends she never loved his Royal Highness's person so much as his rank.

story,

story, universally circulated, respecting Captain M——y, who is stated to have received a letter, offering twenty thousand pounds, upon similar conditions; which, suspecting to be what is fashionably termed a *Quiz*, he tore in pieces; on reflection, however, he collected the fragments, and was at length convinced the fact was otherwise. A second letter, it is added, was addressed to the same gentleman, repeating the offer, and rebuking him for his inattention to the contents of the former.

Some little time after this, Captain M——y, being at a private masquerade, was accosted by a *little* mask, who had anxiously sought an opportunity of engaging his attention. “ Captain M——y,” said he, “ it would be more to your advantage if you would pay attention to the contents of those anonymous letters you recently received, instead of trifling away your time at balls and masquerades.”

Captain

Captain M——y, whose indignation was aroused to the highest pitch, was about to inflict that chastisement which this insolent observation so richly merited ; but, on reflection, he thought the object too contemptible for such decided conduct, which, moreover, would have entirely destroyed the harmony of the festive scene. He therefore contented himself with this galling remark : “ Sir, to your own insignificance, and my respect for our elegant hostess, you owe your safety ; but for these I would rend the mask from your shameless face, and sacrifice you on the spot, for thus daring to insult the honor of a British officer.” Confounded and abashed, this miserable caitiff shrunk from the presence of indignant valor.---His diminutive figure was soon concealed among the surrounding characters ; but it was observed that his form and gait strikingly resembled a certain C——l.

“ Of dimensions small.”

Imagine not that I stand forth the defender of Captain M——y ; his character for valor, honor,
and

and integrity, is so exalted, that any defence thereof might be esteemed a species of negative insult. He must, however, pardon me for explaining to the world a circumstance which has been the subject of malicious animadversion—I mean the frequency of his visits to *Blackheath*.

Miss F——, the beautiful and amiable daughter of an officer who fell a victim to an injured parent's rage, found a protecting friend, in the person of your benevolent princess. The gallant captain had long regarded this interesting young lady with admiration and esteem; but when she removed to Blackheath, being unacquainted with her illustrious benefactress, prevented his enjoying her society so frequently as his friendship induced him to desire. He therefore requested the M—ch—ss of T---ns---d, to introduce him to her Royal Highness, to which that excellent woman, whose conduct is, perhaps, the most unexceptionable in the circles of fashion, instantly agreed. Such an introduction naturally procured Captain M——y distinguished attention, and unlimited
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confidence;

confidence ; his visits, therefore, to Miss F— were frequently repeated. What must have been his feelings, to hear that this innocent circumstance had been attributed to the most abominable motives, possessing, as he does, all the ardent spirit of a British warrior, and virtually obliged, by delicacy, to restrain that spirit from bursting on the heads of his defamers.

It is shrewdly observed, by those malevolent spirits who wish to implicate your Royal Highness in these transactions, that it is very extraordinary your immediate dependants have constantly expressed the most *vindictive* hopes that the late enquiry would end to the disadvantage of the accused, and declared their conviction that the accusations were well founded. Let me seriously advise your Royal Highness to correct this licentious language of your servants, otherwise, may not your enemies maliciously quote the following verse of the Mantuan poet:

“ Quid domini facient audent cum talia fures ?”

From

From many anecdotes of a similar tendency I shall select this one:—Mrs. M——, who possesses all that enthusiastic admiration of your Royal Highness, which distinguishes the little C—l, has of course been frequently interrogated on the subject of the late *delicate enquiry*. On one occasion a lady observed that she thought the situation of the Princess of Wales excited the commiseration of every feeling heart.

“Surely,” exclaimed Mrs. M——, “you cannot mean to defend her cause?”

“All I have to say on the subject,” replied the lady, “is that, deserted as she is in a foreign country, and bereft of every domestic bliss, it is impossible to contemplate her misfortunes without emotions of pity.”

“Pray, my dear madam,” rejoined Mrs. M——, “does the desertion of a wife justify her becoming a libertine?”

“By

“By no means : but can you believe the lady in question to be guilty ?” answered Mrs. ———.

“Believe it !” vociferated Mrs. M——, “is there not a ch——d ; and is there not a letter before the commissioners, wherein she informs Lady —— that no person but herself knew she had been in a certain situation ?”

Such authority Mrs. —— thought conclusive ; and there, for that day, the conversation ended ; but, in less than a fortnight afterwards, Mrs. M—— repeated her visit, and being asked how the business proceeded, exclaimed, “Don’t ask me ! I know so much that it is dangerous to speak.”

“For heaven’s sake,” cried Mrs. ——, “tell me no state secrets, for, if you do, I shall certainly betray them. All I wish to know is, what will probably be the end of this affair.”

“It will all end very well,” replied Mrs. M——, with a degree of *non chalance* almost incredible.

“Did

“Did not you tell me of a ch—d and a letter? How then can it end very well?” was the natural question of Mrs. ——. .

‘Oh!’ answered Mrs. M——, “all about the ch—d is satisfactorily explained; and the letter, *they say*, was written to prove the strength of Lady D’s friendship.”

Thus did this unfeeling woman absurdly explain the seeming mystery, without expressing the smallest regret at having been accessory in injuring the reputation of her future queen; for such, spite of the machinations of Mrs. F—tz—t, and her other foes, she inevitably must be, unless death should will the contrary.

There is another report concerning a debate said to have taken place at the D—— of S——’s, respecting the *time, place, and manner* of *ostensibly* delivering the accusing letter to your Royal Highness, which the respect I bear your rank will not allow me to repeat.

Thus,

Thus, Sir, have I given you a concise account of the most material tales which are circulated with an industry, and devoured with an avidity, that proves the unpopularity of the recent *secret* investigation, and with what confidence the nation looked forward to the honorable acquittal that has been the result thereof.

“If,” say your enemies, “these rumours be true, if Sir ——— and Lady ———, or any body else, did falsely accuse the illustrious personage of crimes which not only affected her reputation but her life,* why should the defamer of a princess be treated with more lenity than the scandalizer of a private individual? In the latter case the severest damages, or a disgraceful punishment would have been inflicted: and does it not appear, from the report of the commissioners (as far as it is

* Stat. 25th of Edward III. declares, that whosoever violates (i. e. criminally knows) the person of the queen, the king’s eldest daughter unmarried, or the wife of the heir apparent to the crown, shall be guilty of high treason; and that she who consents to such violation shall in like manner be guilty of high treason.

known),

known), that she has been falsely accused?—Common sense will not allow us to suppose that an enquiry of such a nature would have taken place without some strong allegations of guilt being first produced.”

“ And is it not equally certain that the persons who fabricated the abominable accusations, have neither been delivered up to the vengeance of the outraged laws, nor exposed to the just indignation of an insulted public? This,” they contend, “ can only result from a conviction, that a *party whose rank precludes* the possibility of legal prosecution, and whose name is held too sacred for public animadversion, is either immediately or collaterally concerned; otherwise,” exclaim they, “ what occasion for this profound secresy, so insulting to the nation, so unjust to the offended dignity of established innocence?”

Such are their arguments, and such their deductions, which (although I may believe them to be false) it is impossible for me, or any other person,

to

to controvert, unless furnished with more ample details than have yet been published.

Now, Sir, let me conjure you to concentrate all your mental energies, and reflect on the serious consequences that may possibly result from a deliction of popular confidence.

What has enabled us to maintain the arduous struggle in which we are engaged ; what has persuaded us to endure the accumulated burdens and privations by which we are so sorely opprest, but a firm reliance on the justice and integrity of the best of monarchs ? For a king, whose public and private virtues are the theme of universal praise, the soldier cheerfully encounters the severest hardships ; a flame of romantic enthusiasm is kindled in his bosom, and he attacks his enemies with the ardor of a son who fights the battle of a much-loved father.

That the renown of brilliant military achievements

ments creates similar effects, is sufficiently proved by the successes of the French armies.

But this can never be the case with respect to your Royal Highness. Your country's laws prevent your acquiring the dazzling popularity of martial fame; and, should Heaven permit you to ascend the throne of your ancestors, the defenders of our rights can only be thus inspired by their admiration of your civil and moral conduct.

Oh! think, in these eventful times, what perils await the monarch who rules not in his people's hearts, what horrors his country has cause to dread from internal discord and conflicting parties; then will you shudder at the paths which lead to such disastrous consequences, and, if one spark of patriotic virtue glimmer in your breast, avoid their course for ever.

Let your first step be to demand an exposition of all the facts relating to the delicate enquiry on

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which

which I before have dwelt ; insist on the guilty being punished, and the extent of their atrocious crimes published to the world ; pay no regard to personages ; and though your dearest friends be implicated, sacrifice them to public duty : thus shall you silence the tongues of your own accusers, and compel them to acknowledge that you have acted as becomes the dignity of a prince, and the feelings of a man.

Alas ! I can advance no stronger arguments to urge your Royal Highness to act thus, no persuasions more truly calculated to make an impression on a feeling heart, than those contained in a letter you recently received, from your illustrious, much injured princess. *

* Some little time past this amiable woman wrote two letters, one to the K—g, and another to her august husband ; in both she entreated, nay demanded, that the proceedings of the commissioners should be published ; and in the latter she ingenuously told H. R. H. that although she believed him innocent, nothing would so strongly confirm her in that opinion as his exerting his influence to have her wishes on this head complied with.

Unhappy

Unhappy stranger! like a tender exotic transplanted from her native soil, she sought protection in this genial country, where she was welcomed with an enthusiasm worthy the expectations of future happiness her coming too falsely excited: but he who should have protected her from the storm, first neglected, and then deserted her: still was she lovely in the shade, where she hoped to shelter her defenceless head. Alas! even there has she been assailed by the frost of calumny: and shall she be now denied that retribution her innocence so justly seeks? For God's sake, Sir, resist not her entreaties, oppose not her just demands: and when you have openly exerted your influence to obtain this act of common justice, it will be absolutely necessary to discharge from your service all those dependant wretches, who have, in any way, countenanced, or abetted the infamous conspiracy against the purity of an illustrious consort, to whom you should henceforward behave with that respect which is due to her virtues as an individual, and her rank as Princess of Wales; although your heart unfortunately

nately refuses the affection of a husband. Adhere no longer to men in the constant habit of opposing your Royal Father's wishes, and cease to associate with a woman, who esteems you only as the necessary instrument of her interested ambition, and whose moral and religious principles the nation regards with disgust and jealousy.

By acting thus, and paying a just regard to virtue and decorum, your errors will be consigned to oblivion ; you will become the idol of your country, and when it shall please the Almighty Power to afflict us with the loss of our inestimable monarch, the hopes of a virtuous successor shall alleviate our sorrows.

I have the honor to be, with every proper respect for your Royal Highness's exalted station,

A FRIEND who is no PARASITE.

Aug. 6th, 1806.

FINIS.



